GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:199
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2000
TENDER COCONUT
P.C. THOMAS

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tender Coconut is nutritious, delicious and good for health;

(b) If so, the steps taken to propagate domestic and other uses of Tender Coconut;

(c) whether any steps have been proposed or taken to transport produces at low cost;

(d) whether any action has been taken to facilitate availability of tender coconut in various parts of the country (Non Coconut Growing Areas); and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To promote uses of Tender Coconut, the Coconut Development Board undertakes market promotional activities such as, advertisement through mass media, propagation of packed tender coconut water, participation in various State/National/ International level exhibitions, Seminars etc. Recently, the Coconut Development Board organised a Seminar on"Tender coconut in human nutrition" to bring awareness among public, especially the young generation. The Tender Coconut Water Parlour ("Elaneer Pandal") has been opened near Kera Bhavan premises of Board's Headquarters at Kochi.Grant-in-aid of Rs.5,000/- was provided bythe Board to establish such "Eleneer Pandals" in Kerala during 1995-96.The Board promotes a special mechanical device by which the tender nuts could be punched to squeeze out water as well as to cut it open.

(c) to (e) Transportation of tender nuts is inconvenient and costly and it cannot be stored for long duration. The Coconut Development Board, therefore, in collaboration with Defence Food Research Laboratory. Mysore have developed technology for preserving and packing tender coconut water in pouches/aluminum canes. The technology has been availed off by three entrepreneurs. One of the companies has already launched their product and also exported to Sydney during last Olympics. The product is available in all metropolitan cities in India. The company is in the look out for expanding their market all over India, especially in areas where fresh tender coconuts are not easily available. Further, tender coconuts are made available in non-traditional areas through private trade channels.